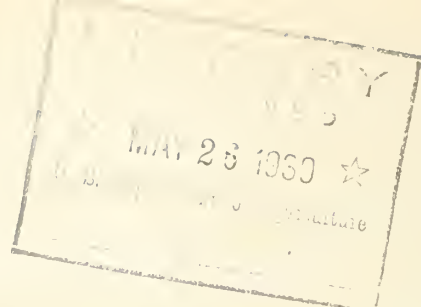


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TREE-PLANTING TIME ON THE FARM

A discussion by Wallace Kadderly, Chief of the Radio Service, and Elizabeth Pitt, Forest Service, broadcast Friday, April 14, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Program by 104 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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KADDERLY:

The time of year approaches for Arbor Day celebrations . . . it's a season for all sorts of tree-planting activities. A short time ago Elizabeth Pitt of the United States Forest Service was here, and told us about the large number of trees that are being planted in the National Forests this Spring. Today she's back . . . and she has another tree-planting story that's just as important as the first one . . .

PITT:

Just as important, Wallace, and one that comes even closer home. It's the story of the cooperation between the Federal Government and the States to encourage the planting of trees on farm lands.

KADDERLY:

And it started back in 1924 when Congress passed the Clarke-McNary Act, didn't it?

PITT:

That's right . . . one section of that Act authorized the Federal Government, through the United States Forest Service, to cooperate with the forestry organizations of the States in establishing tree nurseries to supply planting stock to farmers. The Federal Government puts up a certain amount of the money each year, and the State supplies the rest.

KADDERLY:

How many States are carrying on this cooperative work?

PITT:

Forty-three . . . and last year they distributed more than 41,000,000 young trees to farmers.

KADDERLY:

How much do these young trees . . . these seedlings . . . cost?

PITT:

That's a little hard to answer. Conditions are so different in various parts of the country that the price varies considerably. Down South, for example, where pine seedlings can be produced rapidly and fairly easily, you can get seedlings for an average of about \$2.50 a thousand. In New England, where the climate is more severe and the trees grow more slowly, seedlings will cost, on an average, about 6 or 7 dollars a thousand. Out west the price ranges from \$2.50 a thousand in Oregon to a slightly higher

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figure in Washington, Idaho, and other Western states.

KADDERLY:

The seedlings produced in the Clarke-McNary nurseries are all intended for wood production and windbreak purposes . . . no ornamentals are produced, are they?

PITT:

Oh, no. . . just seedlings for timber production and windbreaks . . . the idea is to keep something on the land not only to provide some income, but also to help save the soil by checking erosion and floods. The Soil Conservation Service encourages tree-planting, too, for just this reason.

KADDERLY:

You mentioned the possible income from trees on otherwise unproductive lands . . . does this amount to much in individual cases?

PITT:

You should talk to a farmer I know down in Georgia. He had a farm that was worn out from cotton production. This was about fifteen years ago, and he valued his land then at about \$4 an acre. He looked about for a way out of his difficulties, and finally decided to plant his land to fast-growing slash pine. While the trees were maturing for timber, he put up some turpentine cups and produced naval stores. This gave him two crops, and he has been so successful with his tree farming that his land is now valued at \$50 an acre.

KADDERLY:

Fifty dollars an acre . . . and fifteen years ago it was worth four dollars . . . I should say that tells the story.

PITT:

Yes . . . and I could go on citing case after case like that . . .

KADDERLY:

I hate to stop you, . . . but I still have another question I want to ask you. Out of the 43 States that are cooperating with the Forest Service in supplying planting stock to individuals . . . which States have the most active programs?

PITT:

They all have good programs . . . of course, they vary with the size and location of the State . . . for instance, Delaware wouldn't have room for as many trees as Wisconsin. The most active program is in New York State . . . up there they distributed 4,028,000 seedlings last year. The South gets second place . . . South Carolina planted 4,010,000 young trees, only 18,000 less than New York. And Pennsylvania was third with 3,060,000. Arkansas came fourth with a little less than 3,000,000. Farmers in practically all of the Middle West and Far Western States are planting millions of trees, too.

KADDERLY:

I suppose if a person wanted to get some seedlings to plant on his land, the thing for him to do would be to apply to his State Forester . . .

not for this year, of course, but for next year.

PITT:

Yes . . . and usually he will find the Forester located in the State capital.

KADDERLY:

In some States I know the county agricultural agents are in a position to give farmers information on how to obtain trees from the Clarke-McNary nurseries. And the sooner the applications are put in . . . even for planting next year . . . the better. Isn't that right?

PITT:

Yes, indeed. In spite of the way the States have expanded their nursery programs, there are often not enough trees to go around. It's wise to get the applications in early.

KADDERLY:

Thanks very much, Elizabeth Pitt, for this information about governmental aid to encourage tree-planting on farm lands.

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